

# The Soldiers' Letter Box

## MARYLANDERS LIKE EAGLE PASS CAMP

Captain Clayton Says Everything Is Fine But the Heat. Few Tarantulas Found.

Co. K, First Maryland Infantry, EAGLE PASS, Tex., July 28, 1916.

The Editor Washington Times:

Two copies of The Times have been delivered to me for the past three days, and I passed them down the line, as this company comes from Montgomery county, and many of us always read The Times when at home. Thanks for this kindness on the part of some good friend, which may be yourself. It was thoughtful and acceptable.

The camp at Eagle Pass is as fine a place as I ever saw, barring the heat and the taste of the alkaline water. The health of the troops under this change of climate, water, and living conditions is wonderful, unless the heat is considered. Of the fine sanitary practice of the army, we have the supervision, advice, and constant inspection of the army surgeons on sanitation, and keep our camp and our men in condition, even better than any militia camp I ever took part in. Speaking of heat, say, we know what heat is now. Camped on the desert, all chaparral cleared off, and the sun shining on the white soil, it is some warm.

**Thermometer Often Over 100.**

Temperature, by the colonel's thermometer in the shade of his tent up to 100, sometimes, often over 100; but I remember two occasions when the colonel called me up for a little conference about things when the thermometer seemed to be 200 in the shade, and it looked cooler outside in the sun.

The food has been good, and we have always had enough. Some of the "boys" have been writing home, telling about being starved. I have heard; but these cases are usually connected with a request for money from home, which is usually spent for alcohol, cream, or some stuff like that, at the regimental canteen.

Of course, some of them go to town and buy a flagon or so of Texas beer, and some use the cash in learning "pen-ny ante" or trying to learn it. Don't swallow the hardship stories without a proper amount of salt.

**Wishing for the Third.**

I see the Third District Infantry is still at Fort Myer, and having a hard job to get full rank. I wish them good luck, and a quick departure for the front, for I have many friends in the District of Columbia brigade, having served ten years in that outfit before I moved over to Maryland.

I suppose ought to mention the tarantulas, writing home, telling about not seem to be plentiful enough here to be worth writing about. The boys go out hunting for them, and they are off duty, but have not had much luck. They got a few of each in nearly a month, and they seem to have accounted for the whole crop, in this section at least.

The hills of Mexico are in plain sight of the camp, across the Rio Grande, but the Mexicans so far have failed to start anything. From the lot we see round camp, I think they are more liable to ask for a square meal than they are to shoot across the river.

**Almost Like Militia Camp.**

We have bridge guards, outposts, and interior guard constantly, and things look very peaceful, except that each infantry soldier has his belt full of ball cartridge and two bandoliers full besides. Some ammunition, that—210 rounds per man. I never saw ball ammunition in a militia camp, but otherwise we feel very much at home.

Officers and men eat the same rations here, as officers have to get their food from the company kitchen cooked by the company cooks, served by an enlisted man, who is paid a little extra by the officers for his services. This is plain field condition, and no militia frills. We are helped and instructed daily by the regular army, and fast becoming a real fighting force.

Equipment is sometimes rather hard to get of the right size, but we eventually get what we need.

Sincerely yours,  
R. B. CLAYTON,  
Captain First Maryland Infantry.

## Boys Gradually Get Used to Texas Life

To the Editor of the Soldiers' Letter Box:

As my mother is a subscriber to your paper, I take the liberty to write to your Soldiers' Letter Box.

I am a member of the Fourth Maryland Infantry. We arrived here on July 10 and pitched camp in a blazing sun, cleared out sage brush, cactus, snakes, and mosquitoes.

We were met at San Antonio by the Texas Red Cross, and given ice cream, sandwiches, lead tea, and post cards. We had a very good time for about two hours.

The boys are getting along very nicely, considering weather conditions, and the change in general.

**Some Kicking on Food.**

A large number of the boys, having been used to a variety of food, are kicking on mess, but I hope they will learn to take everything like soldiers. They don't understand the high prices the Government pays for our maintenance here. I wrote to a girl and told her we had baked chicken for Sunday dinner, but the boys called it hush.

Yesterday we had a sand storm just at retreat. Lots of the boys had spent an hour cleaning their rifles, and when we fell in they looked as though they had picked them out of the river, only they were dry.

**Has No Cot Yet.**

I have no cot or bedstead yet, so I sleep on my shelter half and poncho, and after yesterday's storm I asked the first sergeant for a detail, and when he asked me what for, I told him to dig my bed out of the sand.

We had a song which we sang on our

**NUXATED IRON**

Increases strength of delicate, nervous, run-down people 25 per cent in ten days in many instances. \$100 forfeit if it fails as per full explanation in large article soon to appear in this paper. Ask your doctor or druggist about it. Jas. O'Donnell's Drug Store, People's Drug Stores always carry it in stock.—Adv.

Be your own war correspondent, Mr. Guardsman. You want your friends and relatives informed as to your whereabouts and they are just as anxious to know where you are and what you are doing as you are to have them know it. Wherever you be—Radio, the Texas Border, "Somewhere in Mexico," or other place that your Uncle Sam may send you—let those who know you near from you.

Writing letters to a large circle of relatives and friends is a tedious job after a day of hiking and drilling. You can't keep informed of your movements all the people you wish with individual letters. It would be impossible.

So The WASHINGTON TIMES has simplified matters for you. It has established the SOLDIERS' LETTER BOX, where every guardsman can with one fell stroke, one letter, communicate with everyone he knows by writing a letter for publication there.

Acquire the habit of writing to The TIMES gossip accounts of what you are doing in camp. Pen any kind of interesting little stories about yourself and your comrades in camp and the letters will be printed in the SOLDIERS' LETTER BOX.

Notify your people to look for news of you there. Read it yourself to see what your comrades are writing.

Just sign your name, giving your rank, company, regiment, and station for purposes of identification and The WASHINGTON TIMES will do the rest.

Address: "SOLDIERS' LETTER BOX," The Washington Times, Munsey Building, Washington, D. C.

## The Roll of Honor

[List of Recruits for District National Guard Wednesday, August 2, for the Preceding 48 Hours.]

Lawrence L. Jeffries, Rockville, Md.  
Alfred L. Powers, 330 B street southwest.  
Albert W. Cross, 109 Ridge road northeast.  
Leroy D. Opey, 413 Florida avenue northwest.  
John A. Green, 1025 V street northwest.  
Victor C. Olmsted, Clarendon, Va.  
Charles H. Haynes, 309 North Royal street, Alexandria.  
Clarence J. Anderson, Benning, D. C.  
Albert B. Munday, Hagerstown, Md.  
Norval R. Latimer, Silver Hill, Md.  
Lester Wallace, Sixth and Pennsylvania avenue northwest.  
Lama C. Warren, 464 N street northwest.  
Robert Tarrow, 20 East New Boundary street, Charlotte, N. C.  
Joseph Bogan, rear of 47 F street northwest.  
George W. Riley, 754 Twelfth street southeast.  
Robert D. Lightcap, 417 Sixth street northwest.  
Ernest Golden, 614 O'Neal street southwest.  
Samuel Cornelius, 42 G street northwest.  
Benjamin Bower, 1122 L street southeast.  
G. S. King, Silver Hill, Md.  
Milton Jett, 445 New York avenue northwest.  
George S. Baker, 617 Louisiana avenue northwest.  
Roger T. Weedon, 1321 Vermont avenue northwest.  
C. A. Roane, 1422 K street northwest.  
R. H. Jones, 1432 Gay street, Baltimore, Md.  
Paul T. Terry, Charlotte, N. C.  
C. H. Brightwell, 6035 Fifth street northwest.  
Theodore T. Stewart, 30 H street northeast.  
William J. Carnell, 1342 Union street southwest.

way here, but now that is changed. This is what we sing now:

It's a long, long way to Baltimore, It's a long way to go, It's a long, long way to Baltimore, That's the dearest place I know, Good-by Camp Ord, Texas, Hello Maryland.

It's a long, long way to Baltimore, Won't that be grand.

I must close this letter as the bugle is sounding drill call, and also I want to give some one else some space in your paper. Thanking you for your kind consideration, I am most respectfully yours,

THOMAS A. ALLEN,  
Co. L, Fourth Maryland Infantry,  
U. S. N. G., Eagle Pass, Tex.  
Camp Ord, Texas, July 28.

## LOSES GIRL AND \$900 WHILE ON AUTO RIDE

Man in Car Takes Money and Pushes Owner Out.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 2.—After a whirl through Fairmount Park in an automobile, Leon Lubia, of Newark, N. J., found himself bereft of his fiancée and his life savings, amounting to \$900. He told his story to the police after he had picked himself up on a park roadway, noted the dust of the departing motor carrying his bride-to-be, and trudged dismally to a car line and thence to detective headquarters.

Lubia said he came to the city with his fiancée, whose name he did not reveal, several days ago. His bride-to-be suggested that he return to Newark for his savings, so they could be married. He got the money and reached the city again early yesterday.

His fiancée introduced him to a man, whose name he does not remember, and the latter proposed a ride in the park. Lubia agreed. His fiancée, he said, thought the money would be safer in her keeping, and he turned it over to her. When the auto reached a secluded part of the park, the strange man suddenly opened the door and pushed him out.

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## INVESTIGATE FIRING ON MILITIA CAMP

Alexandria County Officials Press Probe of Shooting by Civilians Near Radio.

Sheriff Howard Fields, of Alexandria county, after consultation with officers of the Third Infantry, began a rigid investigation today of the shooting of Corporal Walter H. Thompson, of Company K, Third Regiment, last night.

Eight shots were fired into the camp at Radio by civilians living near by.

One of the shots struck Corporal Thompson in the left shoulder. He was not badly hurt, as the ball just grazed the skin and did not even cause an abrasion.

Sheriff Fields cross-questioned three colored men held as suspects by Col. Anton Steinhilber, and announced his intention of procuring three warrants for unlawful shooting. The three suspects are said to have been identified by a number of members of the First Separate Battalion, who witnessed the shooting, and by two others who say they were held up after the shooting.

**Artillery Men To Get Pay.**

Members of Battery B, First Field Artillery, today were congratulating themselves on their luck.

One Capt. Horace P. Hobbs' recommendation to the Department of the Post that Battery B be sent to the Mexican border Saturday, Maj. W. P. French announced that he would pay the artillerymen this afternoon. The battery will receive pay due from June 21, when they reported at camp, until July 31. All of the artillerymen will receive a substantial sum.

Battery A will be paid off this afternoon, according to William Voland, a civilian, who in the depot quartermaster's office, who will distribute the funds. Voland said arrangements had been completed to pay off the members of Troop A, First Separate Cavalry, but this organization is on the rifle range at Congress Heights and the money probably will be held at Fort Myer until they return.

## Infantry Rolls Most Ready.

Major French said the work of checking up rolls for the infantrymen was progressing rapidly, and he expected to pay them within the next day or two.

Captain Hobbs said today he had not yet received a reply from General Wood to the telegram announcing that Battery B and 130 recruits for the First Separate Battalion, would be ready to entrain for the border Saturday. He said he expected a reply today. Captain Hobbs thinks the reply will be favorable.

The three battalions of the Third Regiment fought another bloodless battle which raged for three hours at the Battle of the Cross Roads, above Ballston today. Major McCathran, commanding the Second Regiment, was on the defense, under orders to hold all the territory north of the cross roads, while Major Hodgson and Major Summers, commanding the First and Third battalions, were on the offense.

## Former Member of Blues In District Guard Now

Among the recruits recently added to Company A, First Battalion, is Louis Little, a former member of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, the crack military organization of the South.

Little has "been all up and down the non-com line in the Blues, and when he left Richmond several months ago he held the rank of battalion sergeant major.

He served ten years in the Blues, the members of which have an international reputation for drilling and marching. Little has not yet been furnished a uniform, and therefore, has been excused from drilling.

He is on kitchen detail, and the cook says he handles pots and pans as well as the Blues handle rifles.

## News and Gossip From Radio Camp

Militiamen Get Scared When They Hear "Rifle-Report" Near Guardhouse, But Excitement Dies Down After It Is Learned It Was Only a Tire.

Considerable commotion was created at the District militia mobilization camp yesterday when a loud report was heard near the guardhouse.

A number of officers, including Lieut. Col. Anton Steinhilber and Capt. E. W. Fullam, regimental adjutant, and several scores of enlisted men dashed toward the guardhouse. All of them thought a prisoner had attempted to escape and that a guard had fired at him.

The excitement subsided in short order, however, when the guard reported that the noise was caused by the bursting of a tire on an automobile delivering supplies to the quartermaster's corps.

The guards are still carrying ball ammunition in their guns and every time a loud report is heard a rumor of a shooting, if not a killing, is started.

The men on guard are being constantly advised by Lieutenant Colonel Steinhilber and other officers to be careful in handling their loaded rifles. On more than one occasion the men patrolling posts with the muzzles of their rifles too low have been ordered to elevate their weapons so that in case the weapon was discharged the bullet would go upward.

## Diminutive Black Boy Is Guardsmen's Mascot

The District militia's unofficial mascot is attracting considerable attention. The mascot is a diminutive pickaninny known throughout the mobilization camp as Turkey.

The little black boy is fully attired in khaki uniform and has the chevrons of a corporal on his arm. He is about two and a half feet tall and is almost hidden by the big campaign hat which fits down near his ears.

"Turkey" salutes all of the officers in true military style, coming to attention, standing erect and saluting with a sharp click of his heels.

He amuses the soldiers with his songs, dances and ready wit, and also performs many errands for them.

## Politics Blamed for D. C. Man's Hard Luck

Most of the militiamen in camp who have heard of the case of Bernard Rome unhesitatingly say, "he got a raw deal," but Rome sits silently in his tent in Battery B street, and wonders what hard luck will next be his.

Rome, who has been serving as a sergeant in Battery B, was honorably discharged last week on orders from the War Department so that he might accept a commission as second lieutenant in the Third Infantry of New York Artillery. He left Washington immediately after his discharge was handed him and started to New York.

When he arrived at Philadelphia, however, he received a telegram from Col. William Hand, commanding the

**Ill; Lands in Jail.**

TRENTON, N. J., Aug. 2.—Convicted of having driven an automobile while under the influence of liquor, Alonzo Dye, a local chauffeur, was sentenced to thirty days on the county farm today by Judge Sederberg. Judge Sederberg said that he had been unwell for some time, and that he drank a little whisky for medicinal purposes.

## Keeping Yourself Well

HOW YOU GET SICK

Sometimes you overload your stomach with rich foods. Your life may be an active one, and thus you may care for all you eat. But a few days of inactivity show your system does not call for so much. You awake in the morning tired. Your body feels heavy; you know you are not up to the mark. Your digestion has not cared for the overload. Part of it remains. It generates gas that inflames the delicate linings. They fail to pour out the digestive fluids and neglect to absorb the life-giving elements. Your body gets weak, and soon opportunity is offered for some severe illness.

Taken in time, the indigestion would not become serious. First remove the overload; then soothe the sore membranes; then build up the weakened body. It's simple to say, but not too easy to do. You need help. A tonic that will quicken digestion, help remove waste, soothe the sore membranes and arouse the system—that's just what you need.

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The architectural plans have been completed and will be supervised by Francis H. Kimball, whose monumental fame has been established in giant skyscrapers, such as the Empire Trust, the City Investment, the U. S. Realty, the Adams Express, the Trinity, the Philadelphia & Reading Terminal, and other huge structures.

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